

- 1) Students with severe disabilities are those students who generally have significant cognitive deficits as evidenced by one of the two methods described below:

The student obtains scores falling four or more standard deviations below the mean on standardized measures of cognitive **[ability]** **functioning** and shows commensurate deficits in at least two areas of adaptive functioning.

OR

The student is not able to respond to any standardized measure of cognitive ability due to a combination of sensory and/or motor impairments, but diagnostic information indicates significant deficits in intellectual and adaptive behavior skills, and the student requires pervasive **level of** supports across all life areas, as defined by the American Association for Mental Retardation (AAMR) classification system.

This identification shall result from comprehensive evaluation that is consistent with the procedures in Regulation III.3., Procedures for Evaluation and Determination of Eligibility.

- 2) The presence of significant cognitive deficits may permeate a student's educational condition so as to render him/her severely disabled. A student with severe or multiple disabilities would evidence the presence of significant cognitive deficits along with one or more of the other educationally disabling conditions.

Students who educationally benefit from special education and related services that can be provided by local educational agencies are not considered eligible for services through the State Schools for Severely Handicapped. In general, students with disabilities such as cognitive deficits falling two to three standard deviations below the mean, Speech or Language Impairments, Hearing Impaired/Deaf, Visually Impaired/Blind, Learning Disabilities, Emotional Disturbance, Other Health Impaired, Traumatic Brain Injury, or Orthopedically Impaired can receive an appropriate education when served by local educational agencies.

A student with a severe disability may enroll in the State Schools for Severely Handicapped upon attaining the age of five (5) years. **Extended School Year services shall be provided to students who attain age five (5) years during the summer, if eligible for such services.** [Students reaching the age of five (5) years during the summer months can enroll for the first day of the next regular school term. Students may be enrolled in the State Schools for Severely Handicapped until the close of the school term during which their twenty-first (21st) birthday occurs.]

## B. Referral Procedures